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Tuesday April 19, 1977 CIA CG NIDC 77-90C

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Tuesday April 19, 1977.

The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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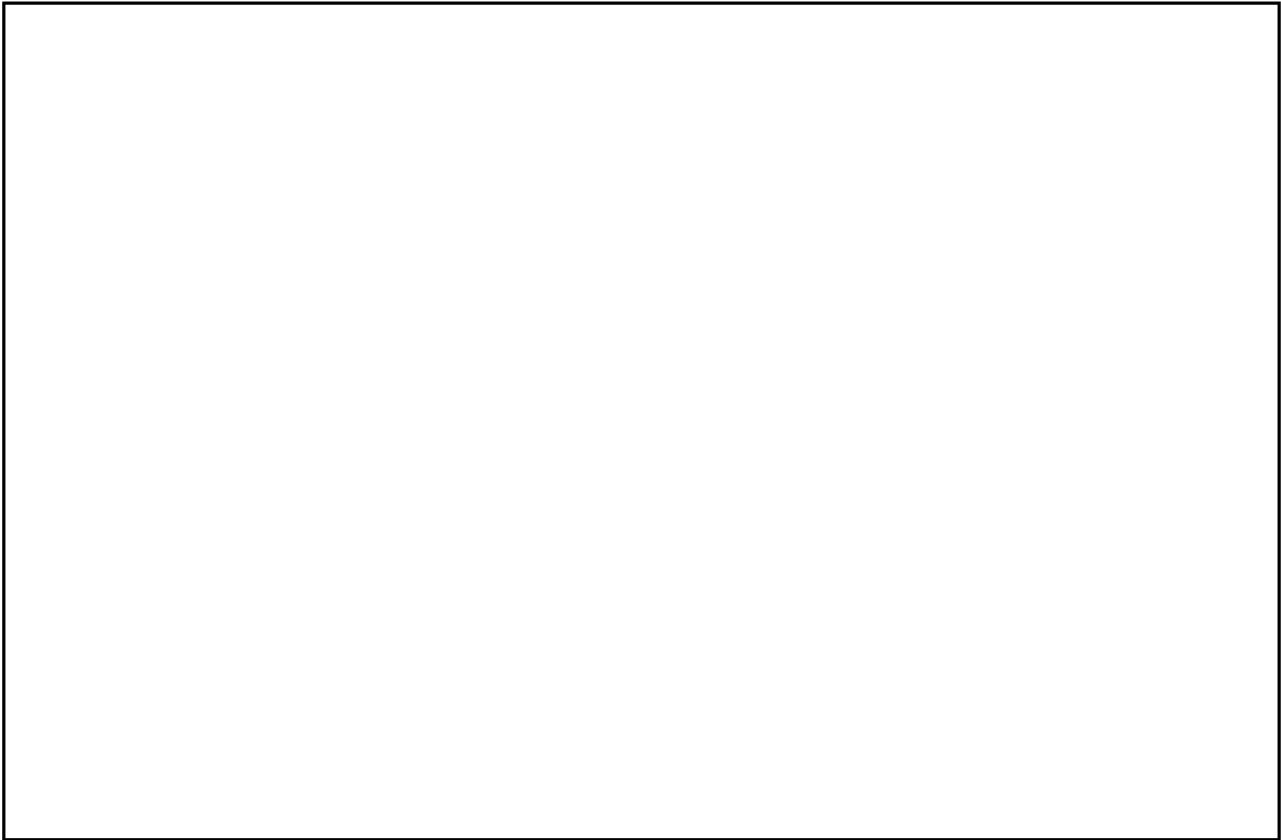
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RHODESIA: Smith Wins Vote

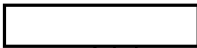
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 Rhodesian Prime Minister Smith turned aside a challenge to his leadership by dissident right-wing members of his Rhodesian Front Party at a special party congress yesterday. The congress also authorized Smith to negotiate a settlement with black nationalists.

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 Press reports indicate Smith won two crucial resolutions by comfortable margins. The first stated that the congress "accepted the need for a settlement and urges the government to ensure that the rights of all communities are meaningfully guaranteed."

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 The second resolution authorized Smith to negotiate a settlement, giving him a free hand to respond to British Foreign Secretary Owen's new proposals for a settlement conference.

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[redacted] Twelve dissident Rhodesian Front members of parliament had sought to challenge Smith at the congress, saying that a recently passed amendment to the Land Tenure Act had violated the party's principles.

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[redacted] Smith apparently won approval to negotiate by means of a watered-down version of his original proposal to the party congress. The Prime Minister had asked that the party's policies and principles be suspended in order to show good faith in negotiations. The adopted version authorized Smith to negotiate, but urged the government to "strive to abide" by the party's policies. [redacted]

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INDIA-BANGLADESH: Farakka Talks

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[redacted] *India and Bangladesh reached an interim agreement yesterday on the distribution of water from the Ganges River that is diverted by India's Farakka Barrage.*

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[redacted] Negotiators who met in Dacca stated that details of a final agreement will be worked out in the near future at a meeting in New Delhi.

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[redacted]

[redacted]

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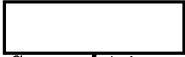
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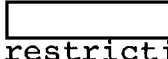


POLAND: Gierek Speech

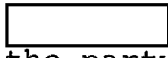
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 Polish party leader Gierek's speech to a Central Committee plenum on Thursday suggests he intends to continue his moderate, pragmatic course in internal affairs.

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 Gierek gave no indication he intends to impose new restrictions to control domestic dissidents, and gave no hints that new economic policies are planned.

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 The major theme of his speech was the need to improve the party's performance in working with the Polish people. The

regime views the local party activists as necessary intermediaries between the people and the top leadership. Gierek seemed ready to admit that the top leadership has not done a good job; his promise that there will be more democracy in the party seems designed to tell low-ranking party members that they will have more influence on the decision-making process so they will be better able to help implement policy.

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[] Gierek was less sharp in criticizing dissidents than he has been on other recent occasions. He said Poland cannot tolerate "violations" of the law and made vague reference to alleged ties between external forces who oppose Poland's socialism and internal "allies." But he devoted only two short paragraphs in his hour-long speech to this subject, and avoided any specifics.

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[] The Polish leader seemed somewhat defensive on the question of human rights. Without specifically mentioning criticism from the West, Gierek referred to "significant progress" in Poland on the rights to work, to education, and to health care. His statements about Poland's democratic principles apparently were also meant to counter criticisms and ideas from the West.

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[] Gierek took an upbeat approach to international questions. He emphasized that Poland is implementing all the provisions of the Helsinki accords and said that he was "pleased" that the majority of Western countries had declared their willingness to continue and expand detente. He said that there can be no interference in the internal affairs of another country, but he did not dwell on this subject.

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[] Only one personnel change was announced at the plenum. An economic department head in the Central Committee apparatus, Zbigniew Zielinski, was promoted to membership in the secretariat. He probably will aid Gierek's economic adviser Stefan Olszowski.

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